Fraud in Damodar Valley Corporation

†2384. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a fraud to the tune of crores of rupees is taking place in the Damodar Valley Corporation, a Public Sector Undertaking;

(b) whether advisors for coal have been appointed in spite of the fact that such appointments have been termed as unnecessary in enquiry reports for the year 2002 and 2003 respectively;

(c) whether the regulations on a large scale had been confirmed in the audit reports during the last five years; and

(d) what action has been taken in relation to these appointments made arbitrarily by the Government, together with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Audit while conducting a review of the overall activities of Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) Bermo Mines observed that the expenditure incurred towards emoluments on the appointment of Advisor (Mining) was unnecessary since coal production fell down during his tenure in 2002-03. The Advisor (Mining) was appointed from the candidates nominated by the Ministry of Coal and Mines. His appointment was essential in order to explore coal linkage and captive coal mines for new thermal power projects, to advise in respect of the formation of joint venture company for captive coal mines right from Expression of Interest to the formation of the joint venture company and for the improvement in mining operation of DVC Bermo captive coal mines. Taking into consideration DVC's clarifications, the Audit dropped their observations from the Draft Review Audit Report.

(c) Audit has given various audit observations on the overall activities of DVC in their Draft Annual Audit Report (DAAR) for the year 2004-05. DVC has given the detailed reply to each and every draft audit observations to the audit.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) The services of Advisor (Mining) were discontinued by DVC on 13.05.2005 after expiry of his contract period.

Rationalization of the power tariff rates

2385. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with privatization of power distribution in different States, the power tariffs have gone away with the result that while a consumer consuming 100 units in Delhi pays Rs. 252 against just Rs. 99 in Mumbai and double what one pays in Chennai;

(b) if so, the comparative tariff for 100, 200, 400 and 600 units in the different metropolis;

(c) the reasons for such vastly different discriminative tariffs; and

(d) the steps taken and being taken to rationalize the traiff rates in different metropolis and States, so as to bring down the rates especially for the domestic and agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) As per available information the estimated average rate of power for domestic consumers in the category of 100, 200, 400 and 600 KWh/pm in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai (Tamil Nadu) are as under:

Paise/KWh

Name of the Metropolis	Tariff effective from	100 KWh/pm	200 KWh/pm	400 KWh/pm	600 KWh/pm
Delhi					
1. New Dehli Municipal Corporation	1.6.2001	158.00	189.50	252.25	294.17
2. North Delhi Power Ltd./BSES Rajdhani/BSES Yamuna	15.7.2005*	277.60	264.60	346.50	394.10

*Subsequently, the Government of NCT of Delhi has decided under section 65 of the Electricity Act, 2003 to subsidise 50% of the hike in the domestic category tariff caused by order of DERC dated 07.07.2005 for a period of one year w.e.f. 15.07.2005. Further, as per DERC order dated 23.09.2005, the Distribution Companies are providing incentive to domestic category consumers so that remaining 50% of tariff hike is neutralized.